Government's Fertilizers Policy

1172. SHRI RAM NARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is Government's Fertilizer Policy for the future and

(b) the details of additional capacity installed in this regard during 1980 to 1990- year-wise - thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) The Government's objective for future is to achieve self-sufficiency in nitrogenous fertilizers and to maximise the exploration/ production of indigenous rock phosphate and potash. To bridge the gap between production and demand phosphatic fertilizers will have to be imported due to domestic raw material constraints. Till potash reserves are found within the country the entire quantity of potassic fertilizers will have to be important as there are no known sources of potash in the county.

(b) The details of addditional capacity installed during the years 1980-81 to 1990-91, in terms of nutrients are given below :—

(000 MT)

Year	'N'	'P'
1	2	3
1980-81 . .	684	52
1981-82 . .	148	133
1982-83 . .	425	10
1983-84 . .	27	70
1984-85 . .	24	..
1985-86 . .	1394	261
1986-87 . .	248	533
1987-88 . .	220	193
1988-89 . .	1115	387
1989-90 . .	..	100
1990-91 . .	68	33

Import of fertilizers

1173. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total import of fertilizers in the country;

(b) what is the domestic need in total terms;

(c) what is the reason for the steep hike in fertilizer prices;

(d) whether there is any proposal to scale down the price of fertilizers to lesson the difficulties of farmers;

(e) whether the export of fertilizer has gone up from 1989-90 statistics; and

(f) if not, what is the reason ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) During the current year a total of 44·38 lakh tonnes of fertilizers have been imported till Feb. 1992.

(b) The estimated consumption of fertilizers in the country during the current year in terms of nutrients is 134·87 lakh tonnes.

(c) Escalation In the cost of all the inputs including fuel and feeds stock over the years accounts for increase in the cost of production. The consumer price of fertilizers is still below the cost of production and the landed cost of import.

(d) A Parliamentary Committee on Fertilizer Pricing has recently been constituted which is examining the matter.

(e) and (f) India normally does not export chemical fertilizer.

Drug Prices

1174. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news items captioned "Despite patent protection Most Drug Prices to remain unaffected" appeared in the Indian Express dated the 19th December 1991;

(b) whether Government share the view that prices of 95 percent of the drugs produced in the country would remain unaffected even if India went in for patent protection and that the remaining 5 percent would be costly as stated by Mr. Geza Feketekuty the Senior policy advisor to the U.S. Trade Representative; and

(c) what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) Yes; Sir.

(b) and (c) On the basis of available information, it is estimated that the value of formulations based on drugs covered by product patents abroad marketed in the country, is about 10—15%.

Increasing the prices under new drug policy

1175. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the new drug policy would increase prices of drugs by 400 percent in some cases and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government have any plan to safeguard the interest of the low income groups and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) (and) (b) It has been the endeavour of Government to ensure easy availability of medicines in abundant quantity at reasonable prices to the consumers. This aspect is being borne in mind while reviewing the existing drug policy.

Restriction on use of fertilizer technology

1176. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any restriction on the use of fertilizer technology by fertilizer companies;

(b) whether Government have taken or proposes to take a decision to allow free selection of fertilizer technology; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) to (c) Under the new Industrial Policy announced by Government in July, 1991, Indian companies are free to negotiate the terms of technology transfer according to their own commercial